

## Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AEC-11 AECE-00 NAS-01 SCI-06 CPR-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NSF-04 HEW-08

ACDA-19 RSR-01 IO-12 GAC-01 /146 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2834

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DEPARTMENT PASS AEC AND NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, TBIO, PFOR, JA

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS ON CHANGE IN STATUS OF ABCC

SUMMARY: JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS ON CHANGE OF STATUS OF ABCC HAVE BEEN BRIEF, LOW KEY AND FACTUAL. TEXT OF MOST EXTENSIVE REPORT IS TRANSMITTED HERewith. END SUMMARY

1. AT REQUEST OF FONOFF PRESS CLUB, FIRST NORTH AMERICA DIV HEAD FUKADA BRIEFEDPRESS APRIL 2 ON EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN FONOFF AND EMBASSY WHICH RESULTED IN CHANGE OF STATUS OF ABCC. ALTHOUGH ONE SLIGHTLY BARBED REPORT HAD APPEARED IN PRESS ON PREVIOUS DAY, FUKADA'S BRIEFING APPARENTLY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR FACT THAT SUBSEQUENT REPORTS IN ALL MAJOR DAILIES WERE NON- CONTENTIOUS, LOW KEY AND GENERALLY FACTUAL. FULLEST REPORT, WHICH WAS ALSO TYPICAL OF OTHERS, WAS CARRIED IN ASAHI ON APRIL 3. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TEXT FOLLOWS.

2. QTE HEADLINE DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES ABOLISHED FOR ABCC; NO REFERENCE TO 'TRANSFER TO JAPAN' END HEADLINE

GOVERNMENTS OF JAPAN AND US EXCHANGED NOTES VERBALE ON THE 2 ND FOR CHANGING STATUS OF US ATOMIC BOMB CASUALTY  
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COMMISSION( ABCC), WHICH HAS BEEN CONDUCTING SURVEYS AND RESEARCH ON ATOMIC BOMB DISEASES IN HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI, FROM THAT OF ORGAN ATTACHED TO US EMBASSY IN JAPAN, TO THAT OF ORDINARY US GOVERNMENT ORGAN. WITH THIS, STAFF MEMBERS OF ABCC WILL LOSE THEIR DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES FROM THAT DATE, AS A GENERAL RULE. HOWEVER, THIS WILL NOT REALIZE ' TRANSFER OF ABCC TO JAPAN,' WHICH IS BEING DESIRED BY ATOMIC BOMB VICTIMS, AND PERSONS CONCERNED ARE FEELING DISAPPOINTED.

ABCC WAS ESTABLISHED BY US PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER IN 1946, AND FROM 1948 IT STARTED SURVEYS AND RESEARCH ON EFFECTS OF RADIOACTIVITY ON HUMAN BODIES, WITH ATOMIC BOMB VICTIMS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI AS OBJECTS. AFTER PEACE TREATY WENT INTO EFFECT IN 1952, TWO GOVERNMENTS EXCHANGED NOTES VERBALE TO EFFECT THAT ' ABCC WILL BE REGARDED AS ORGAN ATTACHED TO US EMBASSY, AND AMERICAN STAFF OF ABCC WILL BE ACCORDED DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, SUCH AS EXEMPTION FROM TAXES AND CUSTOMS,' AND SEMI- PERMANENT CONTINUATION OF ITS RESEARCH WAS DECIDED.

ITS RESEARCH TOOK FORM OF JOINT RESEARCH WITH WELFARE MINISTRY' S NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, BUT IN CASE OF 1972, US SHOULDERED 1,250 MILLION YEN OF ANNUAL BUDGET OF 1,300 MILLION YEN, AND IT WAS OPERATED COMPLETELY UNDER INITIATIVE OF US. AS RESULT, CRITICISM AND REQUESTS SUCH AS THAT ' ABCC IS TREATING BOMB VICTIMS AS GUINEA PIGS FOR ITS RESEARCH, AND IN ORDER TO MAKE IT A RESEARCH ORGAN FOR BENEFIT OF VICTIMS, ABCC SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO JAPAN,' CAME TO ARISE AMONG VICTIMS AND ABCC LABOR UNION. HOWEVER, NEW NOTES VERBALE EXCHANGED MERELY ABOLISHED DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES FOR AMERICAN STAFF MEMBERS AND CONTENTS DID NOT TOUCH UPON ITS ' TRANSFER TO JAPAN.'

THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, TAKES POSITION THAT RESEARCH BEING CONDUCTED BY ABCC IS MEANINGFUL, AND IT IS CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH US SIDE, STANDING ON POLICY OF SETTING UP SPECIAL EXCEPTION RULES, SUCH AS TO CONTINUE CUSTOMS EXEMPTION FOR MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THIS RESEARCH.

ALSO, IN ORDER TO MEET DEMANDS OF LOCAL INHABITANTS, THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO INCREASE JAPANESE SIDE' S SHARE OF

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EXPENSES BY LARGE MARGIN FROM FISCAL 1974, IN ORDER TO  
' INCREASE DEGREE OF JAPAN' S PARTICIPATION.' IT PLANS TO HOLD  
CONSULTATIONS SOMETIME DURING THIS MONTH TO CONFER ON FUTURE  
COOPERATION RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND US. UNQTE  
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REPORTS ON CHANGE    IN STATUS OF ABCC SUMMARY: JAPAN  
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